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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 | COURIERJOURNAL.COM

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Interstate 65 closure approaches Drivers encouraged to have plan in place



Construction crews work on the off-ramp from southbound Interstate 65 to East St. Catherine Street in Louisville on May 7, as part of the I-65 Central Corridor project ahead of a planned interstate shutdown this summer.

JEFF FAUGHENDER/COURIER JOURNAL

Caroline Neal Louisville Courier Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

With the Interstate 65 closure just days away, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials are urging Louisville drivers to make preparations.

A portion of I-65 from Jefferson Street to the Interstate 264 interchange will close June 1 as part of the \$150 million Central Corridor Project. Crews will replace aging bridges, including ones over Kentucky and Brook streets; a CSX rail line near Burnett Avenue; and Bradley Avenue. The interstate is expected to reopen by the end of July.

"While this closure will create short-term inconveniences, the long-term results will be safer travel, stronger infrastructure and a more reliable interstate system for everyone who depends on it every day," KYTC District 5 Chief District Engineer Matt Bullock said during a May 27 news conference.

KYTC State Highway Engineer James Ballinger said the project will help improve safety for the nearly 125,000 drivers who use the interstate each day.

Though the bridges have been maintained "regularly," they are at the end of their service life, he said. The closure will "significantly speed up" the bridge

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Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 5 Chief District Engineer Matt Bullock provides updates ahead of the June 1 Interstate 65 closure. CAROLINE NEAL/COURIER JOURNAL

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- The main detours to take during the closure.
- How to navigate to the airport.
- Other road projects going on in Louisville.
- How to get to hospitals downtown.

Budget proposes new GPS trackers

Would allow police to follow without chasing

Killian Baarlaer

Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Many times, when police chase down a vehicle, the pursuit ends with some sort of property damage. Even worse, the chase could lead to injuries or fatalities — not only to those directly involved but also the bystanding public.

Those are the risks Louisville Metro Police Department officials and the city's mayor cite as the basis for the department's policy prohibiting police chases in most instances, save for narrow exceptions involving violent felony offenders.

But Mayor Craig Greenberg and LMPD Chief Paul Humphrey are pushing for the opportunity to test a new technology that would allow officers to follow vehicles of interest that do not stop for law enforcement.

StarChase produces adhesive GPS devices that police can shoot from a vehicle-mounted launcher onto vehicles of interest, allowing them to be tracked for a limited time to facilitate an arrest.

"It's almost like shooting a magnetic AirTag at a vehicle that you can then track where it is to avoid a pursuit," Greenberg told reporters in April before unveiling his budget proposal to Louisville Metro Council.

The mayor's budget includes \$108,000 for the GPS pursuit-management system. The Metro Council's Budget Committee is in the process of hosting budget hearings with various city agencies, and the full council will ultimately approve the budget — possibly with changes — by the end of June.

Speaking to council members during a May 20 budget hearing, Humphrey said the proposed funding would finance a pilot program.

"We've had the conversations about us not pursuing felony vehicles that are wanted for non-violent felonies," Humphrey said. "We don't pursue those vehicles."

The GPS technology, he said, would give LMPD "another option to be able to track and capture those vehicles."

LMPD policy states that officers should only pursue a fleeing vehicle when:

- The suspect is the focus of an

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U.S., Iran negotiators reach deal to reopen Strait of Hormuz

Zac Anderson and Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

Negotiators for the United States and Iran have reached a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and extend the 60-day ceasefire while discussions continue over Tehran's nuclear program, according to an American official.

President Donald Trump has yet to approve the deal, though, the official said. Iran's leadership also hasn't signed off yet, according to a regional official who said the American proposal was given to Pakistan, which gave it to Iranian negotiators.

The potential agreement requires unfettered shipping through the Strait of Hormuz without tolls, and Iran must re-

move mines from the waterway within 30 days, according to the United States official. In return, the United States would end a blockade of Iranian ports and waive some sanctions on oil sales.

Under the memorandum, which was first reported by Axios, Iran would agree not to develop a nuclear weapon and would enter into negotiations over how to dispose of its enriched uranium, the

official said. The U.S. would agree to consider further easing of sanctions.

The latest diplomatic maneuvers come after Trump signaled over the weekend that a peace accord was imminent but then lowered expectations for a quick deal after blowback, saying he told negotiators not to rush. Meanwhile,

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Volume 158 | No. 170
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